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**MONOTROPA UNIFLORA.**—We read with much pleasure and profit Dr. Kunze's notes upon *Monotropa uniflora*, and we are glad that our former note called them out. While acknowledging that the weight of the Doctor's practical experience militates strongly against our previous statement, we still think the evidence in the case warranted us in making a pretty strong statement of probable poisoning. Since some grave doubts have been thrown upon the correctness of our attributing the toxic influences mentioned to *Monotropa uniflora*, we have again investigated the case and have evidence that seems rather to strengthen our former statement. This matter we give to the readers of the GAZETTE for their own conclusions.

The young lady, concerned, did not gather the plant in the woods, and hence could not have been poisoned by coming in contact with *Rhus* in that way. She re-affirms her belief that she was poisoned by the Indian Pipe, as she was handling this plant when she crushed it with the results before mentioned. The examination took place at her home after the plant had been brought from the woods. Of course it is barely possible that there might have been some roots of *Rhus* about it when she was handling it; although the particular specimens, which are in my Herbarium, show no indications of any matters belonging to another plant, nor do I remember to have seen any when the plants were first given to me. The young lady says she has often handled the *Rhus Toxicodendron* without any bad effects; but this having been done even several times might not be conclusive evidence at all, that under other states of the constitution this subtle poison would not reach her.

Of course with the experience of Dr. Kunze and others made known to me, I recognize that the cumulative evidence bears strongly against the isolated case we have presented. But I have given the facts just as they were given to me, without knowing that the plant had any particular value in therapeutics. If it is not a genuine case of poisoning by this plant the evidence, all things considered, is very strong that way.—A. H. YOUNG, *Lafayette, Ind.*

**BRYUM ATWATERIÆ.**—The discoverer of this plant was, as Elizabeth Emerson of Vermont, a pupil at the Way Seminary in 1828, when the writer (then Mrs. Lincoln) was preparing for publication her lectures on Botany. Some forty years after this, the former pupil visited the writer at her home in Baltimore, introducing her husband, S. T. Atwater, Esq., of Chicago. She had cultivated the love of science imbibed from her school teachings. In affluent circumstances, without children, and with an indulgent husband who was happy to gratify her literary and scientific taste, she had traveled much and made extensive researches in Natural Science.

After the renewal of our acquaintance she was a faithful and attentive correspondent. At my suggestion she presented to the "Maryland Academy of Sciences" a valuable collection of four hundred botanical specimens. She was elected an honorary member of this society, which after her death at Buffalo, N. Y., in April, 1878, paid a fitting tribute to her memory, as an earnest laborer in the cause of science.

We take from a Michigan paper an extract from an address of Prof. Albert D. Hager, before the Chicago Historical Society:

"Mrs. Atwater was interested in several departments of science, but Botany was her favorite study. During a sojourn in California she preserved more than 2,000 specimens of plants, several of which were new to science." After recounting her valuable historical records, her philanthropic efforts and her active and generous benevolence, the Professor closes by this remark, "It may, in truth, be said that the world is made the better as well as the wiser for her having lived in it."

The following extract from a letter of Feb. 12th, 1878, to the writer, gives the history of the discovery and naming of the *Bryum Atwateriæ*:

"I forward for your acceptance this little specimen. I believe you will feel an es-

pecial interest in it, from its having been found by your former pupil. I gathered it with other plants, at the foot of the Yosemite Falls, in the Yosemite Valley, Cal., on June, 24th, 1873. It being an infertile specimen, I hesitated relative to pressing it, but was attracted by its peculiarity and preserved several tufts of it. Attaching no particular value to it—being not in fruit—yet greatly interested in its appearance, I did not send it with other plants, to friends for whom in my travels I am in the habit of collecting, but chanced to include one in a small parcel to my friend, Dr. Chas. Mohr, a German gentleman, resident in Mobile, Ala., and a fine botanist. He noticed it as new to himself and immediately forwarded the tuft to Dr. Karl Muller, the distinguished Bryologist in Germany. I quote from Dr. Mohr's letter in reference to it: 'Dr. Muller describes that line brown moss, of which you had sent me an infertile specimen, as a new species, naming it in honor of its enthusiastic discoverer, *Bryum Atwateriae*. It is nearly allied to the *B. alpinum* of Europe.' It was reported in the 'Bulletin of the Torrey Botanical Club,' New York, August, 1874."

To this account of the discovery and naming of the plant under consideration, we will add that though the name of the genus *Bryum* is ascribed to Linnæus, it seems to have been merged in with other genera of Mosses, and is not found in the works of many of our distinguished American Botanists. Lindley refers to Hooker for a description of the family *Bryaceæ*, of which *Bryum* may be considered a type. He enumerates more than a hundred genera of *Bryaceæ*, and says: "The little plants, the *Urn Mosses*, form one of the most interesting departments of Cryptogamous Botany; they are distinctly separated from all the previous tribes by the peculiar structure of their reproductive organs." The position of the *Bryaceæ*, according to Lindley, is between *Jungermanniaceæ* and *Andraceæ*. We have not seen what the distinguished Bryologist, Karl Muller, says of this peculiar family of plants. That he has honored our countrywoman in naming her as a discoverer, entitles him to our gratitude.

I will add to this article but one short sentence, worth more than all to her who is now in the better world—she was a Christian.—ALMIRA LINCOLN PHELPS, *Baltimore, Maryland*.

THE NATIVE FLOWERS AND FERNS OF THE UNITED STATES; BY THOMAS MEEHAN; Illustrated by Chromolithographs, Boston, L. Prang & Co.—We have received five parts of the first volume of this handsome publication. It is a charming work and well calculated to arouse an interest in the study of botany among those who have considered it too dry and technical. The colored plates are beautiful and the descriptions and histories given in the accompanying text are written in such a popular way as to interest and instruct even those who have no knowledge of botany. No special order is followed, but plants are selected representing as great a range of country as possible, so that even in one part the reader is carried over considerable of the territory of the United States. In his selection of plants, too, Mr. Meehan, shows that he is a true botanist, for he sees beauty in plants that would escape the ordinary observer, and deems them worthy of a place and plate. The price too (50 cents a part) puts the work within every one's reach. To show something of its nature the following list of contents of the first parts is given. It must be remembered that every species in the list also represents a colored plate.

Part I.—*Tradescantia Virginica*, *Geum triflorum*, *Gelsemium sempervirens*, *Polypodium incanum*. Part II.—*Viola cucullata*, *Anemone nemorosa*, *Aquilegia chrysantha*, *Pachysandra procumbens*. Part III.—*Helonias bullata*, *Carex stricta*, *Oxyphe viscosissima*, *Thalictrum dioicum*. Part IV.—*Anemone patens*, var. *Nuttalliana*, *Orchis spectabilis*, *Symplocarpus fetidus*, *Pedicularis Canadensis*. Part V.—*Erythronium Americanum*, *Phlox subulata*, *Saxifraga Virginienensis*, *Arctostaphylos Uva-ursi*.

ERRATA.—In No. 8, Vol. 3, p. 67, 4th line from top, for "pubescent" read "procumbent." l. c. 26th line, read "uncinata" for "runcinata."